

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1014
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
TEESTA CANAL PROJECT IN WEST BENGAL
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) when was the Teesta Canal Project of West Bengal conceived and when it became operational;
- (b) the initial estimated cost of the project, its length and the beneficiary districts; and
- (c) the amount spent on its completion and how much has been shared between the Centre and the State Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) The Teesta Canal Project was approved by the Planning Commission in the year 1975 for Rs. 69.72 crore (at 1970-71 price level) and the Project was taken up in May, 1976. The latest estimated cost of the Project is Rs. 1177.00 crore (at 1996 price level) and the expenditure incurred till March, 2002 is Rs. 972.39 crore. The Project is to benefit the districts of Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Malda in West Bengal.

The main features of the Project (sub-stage I of Stage I) are given below:-

Barrage (3 Nos.)

- i. A barrage across river Teesta
- ii. A barrage across river Mahananda
- iii. A barrage across river Dauk

Canals

- I. Teesta-Mahananda link Canal (25.75 Km.)
- II. Mahananda Main Canal (32.22 Km.)
- III. Dauk-Nagar Main Canal (79.80)
- IV. Nagar-Tangon Main Canal (45 Km.)
- V. Teesta-Jaldhaka Main Canal (30.38 Km.)
- VI. Distribution system for providing irrigation to 342 th. ha (CCA) upto 5 to 8 ha. blocks. Annual irrigation envisaged is 527 th. ha.

The Planning Commission had released Central assistance of Rs. 150 crore to Government of West Bengal for this project during VIII Plan.

In 1996-97 Ministry of Water Resources Government of India launched an "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to provide Central Plan Assistance (CPA) to States with the objective of early completion of ongoing irrigation projects, which are in an advanced stage of construction. Central Loan Assistance provided by Central Government to the Government of West Bengal for Teesta Barrage Project under AIBP is given below:-

Year	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	99-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-2003
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Central	5.00	15.00	10.00	19.00	20.00	23.283	16.538#
Loan							
Assistance							

(Rs. in crore)

CLA recommended for release of first instalment.

Irrigation being a State Subject, the Water Resources Projects are being planned, executed and funded by the State Government out of its own resources and as per its own priorities. The Project is targeted to be completed by 2007.